November 15 1983

Charles Pashayan
House of Representatives
Congress of the United States
129 Cannon Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chip;

I am writing you with a sense of great urgency because I do not know how much time we have before one of our widows dies. This letter concerns the remaining cabins in the Mineral King area of Sequoia National Park which have been owned and maintained by the families and relatives for several generations.

I would like to request that you reintroduce your legislation of B ill H.R. 3341 of the Mineral King National Recreation area, Section 4 amending P.L.95-625 to read; "Any renewals or extensions of leases or permits shall be granted only to those persons who were lessees or permittees of record on the date of enactment of this act, or his or her spouse, or the descendents of his or her spouse, and any such lease or permit shall provide that the lease or permit may be terminated by the Secretary at any time the Secretary determines that such lease or permit is incompatible with the administration of the park pursuant to this section or that the land is needed for park purposes."

My reasons are as follows:

1. Many of these cabins are of historical significance having beenpart of the history of Mineral King and of the families who have lived there. Some of these cabins have been standing 50 to 75 years, many on the site of the early miner's cabins. Of further interest, the wood for some of these cabins was furnished by the original saw mill at Atwell Mill. The old Senter-Boone cabin--Betty Boone is a direct descendant of Daniel Boone! The Crowley cabin is another.

2. We have the support of the Tulare County Historical Society requesting the cabins remain there, for the preservation and maintenance and continual occupancy of these cabins. We are hoping for the support of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Califonia State Department of Historical Preservation.

3. We are losing "owners of record" and several of our widows are in their 80's. We just lost Tom Crow of Cabin Cove this past week.

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4. We do not want our cabins to end up like those of Camp Conifer--total destruction, for better use of the land by the park service?

5. Many of the cabins are actually owned by other members of the family, but the forest service wanted as few people to deal with as possible and when we switched to the park, many did not realize other names could be added, and there was only a very shortperiod of time that they could do so.

6. Approximately every 2 years we are reminded of the fact the park's eventual plan is to eliminate the cabins in the Mineral King area--the latest is the new Draft Land Protection Plan for Mineral King. Part of the charm quaintness of the Mineral King Valley are the cabins, certainly not a parking lot for 200 cars! We want to save the cabins from the Park!

7. I should think this proposal should fit in just as nicely as adding his or her spouse in 1981. These cabins should be preserved and maintained while we get the historical societies going on this project. The heavy snows of last winter did a tremendous amount of damage and thousands of dollars have been spent on repairs for these cabins.

8. Compared to the number of visitors, campers, and back-packers in the Mineral King area, the cabins and owners have very little environmental impact on this fragile area.

9. Our summer leases went from $50 when we were in the forest service to $250 with the park service. They would lose a considerable amount of money and "P.R." with us and many other people whom we have met and known throughout the years.

10. Your legislation provides that our leases may be terminated by the Secretary at any time which the park service deems we or our cabins are incompatible.

Awaiting your reply,

Sincerely yours,

Ora Kay Peterson

Ora Kay Peterson
Peterson-Davis Cabin #16
Mineral King Valley, California

P.S. I am enclosing copies of your letters to me in 1980 and 1981 for referral.

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